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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

BOSTON

DEPARTMENT OF DECORATIVE ARTS

Objects Illustrating the Early
History of the Plymouth Colony

1920

VII

EUROPEAN DECORATIVE ARTS

Objects Illustrating the Early
History of the Plymouth Colony

Department of European Decorative
Arts Gallery Guide no. 7

OBJECTS ILLUSTRATING THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE PLYMOUTH COLONY .

List of Photographs for the Pilgrim Exhibition.

ENGLAND.

Scrooby, England.

St. Wilfrid's, the church where the Pilgrims worshipped.

"Scrooby, one of those places of far less importance now in railway times than in the old coaching days, is situated in Nottinghamshire, about a mile and a half south of Bawtry, a market-town within the Yorkshire border on the great north road from London to Berwick. The village has a railway station of its own, but the traveller from the south who would approach Scrooby aright should go on to Bawtry, and return by the highroad lined with elm trees, leading from Bawtry Hall to Scrooby Mill. This is both more picturesque and is the road along which William Bradford came from Austerfield to the gatherings of the brethren in William Brewster's house . . . . We pass the elm-trees around Bawtry Hall with their lively colony of rooks and half a mile farther on we are in sight of Scrooby spire . . . The parish church, which Leland described more than three centuries ago as 'not big but well builded' is dedicated to St. Wilfrid, and is an embattled building in the Early English and Decorated styles, having a tower surmounted by four pinnacles and a lofty octagonal spire. It is somewhat one-sided in appearance, having an aisle on the south side, but none corresponding to it on the north. Two of the three bells in the tower go back farther than William Brewster's time, bearing date upon them 1411 and 1511; the third was not placed till 1647."

(John Brown, "Pilgrim Fathers of New England")

Manor House, the home of William Brewster.

"The village of Scrooby, situated 146 miles north of London, with its population

of some two hundred souls, though small in extent, is ancient in fame. As far back as Domesday Book the manor belonged to the Archbishops of York, who had a palace here. It is not known when they first came here, but as early as 1178. John the Constable of Chester granted the town of Plumtree to Roger, Archbishop of York, and his successors forever; and in 1537 Edward, a successor in the archbishopric, 'demised to Geoffrey Lee, Esquire, his brother, all that his great close, paled about, called Plumtree field, besides Scrooby Park with the Lodge upon the same, together with all his warren and game of conies in the parishes of Scrooby and Haworth for forty-one years.' There are remains of the Manor House and in the field still lie buried the foundations of the ancient palace. The latter building probably began to fall into decay about the time the little community of Christian men came to worship at William Brewster's house. Thoroton, writing of Scrooby in 1677, says:- 'Here within memory stood a very fair palace' . . . . . In 1575/6, Archbishop Sandys appointed William Brewster (father of William Brewster, the Pilgrim) his receiver of Scrooby and all its liberties in Nottinghamshire, and also bailiff of the manor house, to hold both offices for life. His father had held the post before him.

Bawtry, Church and High Street.

Austerfield, England.

Austerfield, England, birthplace of William Bradford, afterwards Governor of Plymouth Colony and historian of Plymouth Plantation.

"Austerfield is an ancient village about three miles from Scrooby on the Yorkshire side. There is still a Roman camp here near the village, and there was a chapel here even before 1229 which belonged to the canons of Blyth, and to whom it was given by John de Buslis. Probably the present quaint old church of the place, dedicated to St, Helen, is substantially the same as that erected by De Buslis. It is a stone edifice, partly Norman in style, consisting of a chancel and nave under a single roof, having a porch on the south side, and surmounting the western gable a bell-cote containing two small bells. The outside remains probably much as it was

when on March 19, 1589/90 William Bradford was brought to be baptised by Henry Fletcher, who in his own hand entered the record in the old register,"

(John Brown, "Pilgrim Fathers of New England")

St. Helen's, the Church where William Bradford was baptised.

The baptismal font.

Page of the register showing the record of the baptism of William Bradford, March 19, 1589.

HOLLAND.

Leyden, Holland, the home of the Pilgrims from 1609 to 1620.

Site of the house of the Rev. John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims at Leyden.

"After being about a year at Amsterdam, John Robinson and the brethren from Scrooby resolved to withdraw and start church life afresh at Leyden, though as William Bradford says 'they well knew that to would be much to the prejudice of their state both in the present and in the future, as indeed it proved to be.' Robinson and his people made formal application to the authorities of Leyden to come and reside in that city. This application was recorded in the Gerechts dags boeken, or court register of the city. It runs as follows:-

'To the Honorable the Burgomasters and Court of the City of Leyden: With due submission and respect, Jan Robarthse, minister of the Divine Word, and some of the members of the Christian Reformed Religion, born in the kingdom of Great Britain, to the number of one hundred persons, or thereabouts, men and women, represent that they are desirous of coming to live in this city, by the first of May next, and to have the freedom thereof in carrying on their trades, without being a burden in the least to anyone.

They therefore address themselves to your Honors, humbly praying that your Honors will be pleased to grant them free consent to betake themselves as aforesaid.'

The reply:-

'The Court, in making a disposition of this present memorial declare that they refuse no honest persons free ingress to come and to have their residence in this city provided that such persons behave themselves, and submit to the laws and ordinances; and therefore the coming of the memorialists will be agreeable and welcome.'

'Thus done in their session at the Council House 12 February, 1609.

'Signed, I. van Hout.'

In Leyden, the exiles from Scrooby seem to have lived very much together. It was not, however, until 1611 that they acquired a place that they could call their own. In that year John Robinson in conjunction with three others, purchased for 8000 guilders a house and garden in the Kloksteeg, which may be anglicized as Bell Lane, where the Pesyns Hof now stands. This property stood on the ground nearly opposite the belfry built in the rear of St. Peter's church. The garden ran back to the extent of 125 feet. The Pilgrims probably worshipped in some part of the buildings connected with this house of Robinson's during their life in Leyden.

Upon the front of the present modern building facing the Church of St. Peter, there was placed in recent years a marble slab with the inscription:- 'On this spot lived, taught and died, John Robinson, 1611-1625.'

St. Peter's, the church in which John Robinson was buried, and the tablet to him.

The fine Gothic church of St. Peter is said to have been erected in 1315, with double aisles, and is the largest church in Leyden. It contains the monuments of many distinguished men. The Rev. John Robinson was buried here in 1625. There is a memorial to him placed on the outside of the church.

Delfshaven, Holland.

Church in which the Pilgrims held services in 1620, just before sailing on the "Speedwell" from Delfshaven to Southampton, England.

PLYMOUTH COLONY.

From Governor William Bradford's "History of Plimouth Plantation." (Begun about 163C).

Spring of 1623. (The Pilgrims had hoped for supplies from England)

"All this whille no supply was heard of, neither knew they when they might expecte any. So they begane to thinke how they might raise as much corne as they could, and obtaine a better crope than they had done, that they might not still thus languish in miserie. At length, after much debate of things, the Governor (with ye advise of ye cheefest amongst them) gave way that they should set corne every man for his own particular, and in that regard trust to themselves; in all other things to go in ye generall way as before. And so assigned to every family a parcell of land according to the proportion of their number for that end, only for present use (but make no devission for inheritance), and ranged all boys and youths under some familie. They had very good success; for it made all hands very industrious, so that much more corne was planted than other waise would have bene by any means ye Governor or any could use, and saved him a great deall of trouble, and gave far better contente. The women now went willingly into ye field, and tooke their little-ones with them to set corne."

Portrait of Gov. Edward Winslow(1595-1625). The only authentic portrait of the "Mayflower" pilgrim.

Portrait of Gov. Josiah Winslow, son of Gov. Edward Winslow. Born in Plymouth in 1629, died 1680, governor 1673-1680.

Portrait of Penelope, wife of Gov. Josiah Winslow.

Portrait of Gen. John Winslow and of Isaac Winslow.

The Compact, signed in the cabin of the "Mayflower", Nov. 11/21, 1620.

Provincetown monument.

"Plymouth in 1622." Leyden Street, the first street in New England.

Plymouth, Massachusetts; Leyden Street to-day.

Burial Hill.

Billington Sea.

Eel River.

Clark's Island, where the Pilgrims passed the first Sabbath in Plymouth.

Pulpit Rock, Clark's, from which the first sermon is said to have been preached.

Plymouth Rock.

Manomet rocks and bluff.

Pilgrim Hall.

Gov. Carver's chair, in Pilgrim Hall.

Elder William Brewster's chair, in Pilgrim Hall.

Cradle of Peregrine White, the first "Pilgrim" baby; Pilgrim Hall.

Sword of Myles Standish, iron pot and pewter platter brought by Standish in the "Mayflower;" Pilgrim Hall.

Winslow relics; Pilgrim Hall.

Site of the "Common House," Leyden Street.

"Forefathers' Monument,"

Pilgrim Meerstoads.

Duxbury, Massachusetts.

"Captain's Hill," named for Captain Myles Standish.

Standish House.

Standish Monument.

The Plymouth settlement began to spread beyond its original boundaries for, as their cattle increased, the people moved farther and farther in search of pasturage. At first these visits were mere summer sojourns, but eventually they led to

the erection of dwellings where the winter could be spent. In 1632 permission was given for the organization of a church nearer home for those that had thus moved some five miles to the north, of which church William Brewster was to have the oversight; but the court at Plymouth which granted this permission insisted that settlers so far distant from the protection of the fort on Burial Hill should be every man of them armed. As an additional precaution against surprise, their houses were palisaded and a line of defence was built across the entrance of the Nook.

Though not incorporated until 1637, Duxbury thus came to be the first offshoot of the Plymouth Stock, and received its name in memory of Myles Standish's ancestral seat in Lancashire, the Duxbury Hall, not far from Chorley.

On Captain's Hill, seen for miles both from sea and land, stands the Myles Standish monument." The present house is said to contain some of the original timber used in the house built by Capt. Myles Standish.

(John Brown, "Pilgrim Fathers of New England").

ENGRAVINGS.

The Landing of the Pilgrims (after P. F. Rothermel).

Engraved by Joseph Andrews.

The Mayflower. (after Marshall Johnson).

Engraved and Published by John A. Lowell and Co.

SILVER.

"The early American silver, as in the case of our early architecture and furniture, is thoroughly characteristic of the taste and life of the period in America . . . . . when purity of form, sense of proportion and perfection of line were preferred to elaborateness of design; when dignity and solidity were considered superior to bulk, and when the beautiful white metal was allowed to take its colors from its surroundings rather than be made a medium for the display of skill by workers in metal. It is natural that this silver should be fashioned after the types then in vogue in England, for the colonials gloried in the name of Englishmen, and loved the customs of the old country.

The first silver made in New England was probably fashioned by English or Scotch emigrants who had served their time abroad. They were followed by craftsmen who either were born here, or, like John Hull, arriving at an early age, learned their trade on this side.

There were several processes by which the metal was treated. It was rolled into sheets and beaten with hammers into various shapes, which when mounted on pitch or cement, could by using punches be covered with patterns or chased. It was cast or poured into

moulds and finished by filling or chasing, or if circular on a lathe; and in later years by a mechanical process called "spinning", in which sheet metal is pressed on a model of the required shape while both are revolving at high speed.

The dean of these silversmiths was John Hull (1624-83). His diary, published by the Massachusetts Historical Society, records the life of a successful merchant prince of old New England. Hull was born in 1624, in Leicestershire, England. He arrived in Boston in 1635, where his diary records that "after a little keeping at school I was taken to help my father plant corn, which I attended to for several years together; and then, by God's good hand, I fell to learning (by the help of my brother) and to practice the trade of Goldsmith." Diligent search has failed to disclose the name of Hull's teacher. Sanderson, Hull's partner died ten years after Hull."

Silver standing cup.	Made in London in 1608 and presented to the First Church of Boston by Gov.John Winthrop.
Four standing cups.	English and American of the 1st and 2nd quarters of the 17th century.
Two caudle cups.	By John Hull (1624-1683) and Robert Sanderson (1610-1693). Both were born in England but worked in Boston.
Silver beaker.	

PEWTER.

In America the pewter industry seems to have made little progress before the first half of the eighteenth century. The earliest products were oil lamps, tea, coffee and chocolate pots, measures and candlesticks. It is probable that a good deal of pewter was brought from England by the first colonists and that it served as models for the Colonial craftsmen. English moulds, too, were no doubt used for a time, and American measures, mugs and plates follow the English shapes. On plates, however, one seldom finds the hammer marks which show with such regularity on English chargers and dishes.

XVIIth Century Pewter Flagon. English.
This very interesting seventeenth century flagon from the West Parish of Barnstable, Massachusetts, bears engraved on the front the portraits of Charles I and Henrietta Maria.

XVIIth Century Pewter Inkwell. English.

" " " Spoon. "

FURNITURE IN THE PILGRIM EXHIBITION.

XVIIth Century Chest with brass plate stating that it was brought over in the "Mayflower" by by Edward Winslow.

" Century Chest. Made in America.

" " " " " "

" " Turned Chair. Made in America. (It is hoped to add other loan chairs of the period shortly).

Fuller cradle from Plymouth.
Tradition has it that this cradle belonged to Dr. Samuel Fuller, who came over on the Mayflower, and who was a brother of Mrs. White, mother of Peregrine White.

Books and photographs relating to the branch of art described in this book are open to use by all visitors in the Library of the Museum, over the Huntington Avenue Entrance.

Copies of this book may be obtained at the Sales Office at the Huntington Avenue Entrance. Price: 10 cents each.